

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Since many things that have been critical of the President were censored due to sensitive political contact, I fail to see why this rule is not equally applied to the anti-Kerry film. This station also censored Nightline, when Ted Koppel wanted to read the names of our fallen soldiers, because it was considered provocative. As an American and a Tax Payer, I think if Sinclair wishes to be a conservative forum, it should do so on private air waves, and not our public airwaves.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.